ABSTRACT

Aqueous formulations suitable for intranasal administration comprise buprenorphine or a physiologically acceptable salt or ester thereof and (a) a pectin having a degree of esterification of less than 50%, (b) chitosan and a polyoxyethylene-poly-oxypropylene copolymer (poloxamer) or (c) chitosan and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose. Such formulations can induce rapid and prolonged analgesia when delivered intranasally to a patient. The buprenorphine or buprenorphine salt or ester may be delivered to the bloodstream to produce within 30 minutes a therapeutic plasma concentration of buprenorphine, C_{ther}, of 0.2 ng/ml or greater which is maintained for a duration T_{maint} of at least 2 hours.